



FY 2011

Annual Report: Georgia Courts

July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011

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Justice at the Center...

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

On February 16, 2011, Chief Justice Carol W. Hunstein delivered her second State of the Judiciary Address before a joint session of the Georgia General Assembly. She turned to a quote from civil rights icon and fellow Georgian Martin Luther King, Jr., to call legislators’ attention to the difficulties facing the state, “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

Sentence Reform. The Chief Justice urged legislators and the Governor to work with the Judicial Branch to reduce Georgia’s over-reliance on incarceration of criminal offenders.

“ . . . We can no longer afford the more than \$1 billion it costs us annually to maintain the fourth-highest incarceration rate in the nation.”

Specialty Courts. Through the efforts of judges and their staffs, Specialty Courts in Georgia — Drug, DUI, Mental Health, and Veterans’ Courts — have become effective and efficient. These courts “save precious taxpayer dollars while protecting the public’s safety” and are models for courts nationally. A report by the Georgia Department of Audits found that drug courts in Georgia have resulted in lower sentencing costs and lower recidivism rates.

Jury Composition. Providing a jury of one’s peers is a keystone in the judicial process. Creating a list of jury-eligible citizens for the 159 counties in Georgia — an effort seven years in the making — protects everyone’s constitutional rights to equal protection and ensures the public will have a jury of his or her peers.

New Initiatives and Legislation

Concern surrounding sentencing reform, jury composition, accountability courts, and judicial qualifications were addressed during the 2011 Session of the Georgia General Assembly. Some legislative actions from previous years were reversed including fee increases for appellate records and the date of nonpartisan elections. The Administrative Office of the Courts continued its weekly stakeholder meetings to discuss legislative initiatives for the judicial branch.

Criminal Justice Reform. Chief Justice Carol W. Hunstein joined Governor Nathan Deal, Speaker David Ralston, and legislative leaders from both parties at a news conference on February 16, 2011, at the State Capitol. The leaders of the three branches announced support for HB 265, legislation creating an 11-member bipartisan committee to recommend reforms to Georgia's criminal justice system. HB 265 was signed by Gov. Deal on May 3, 2011.

Chief Justice Hunstein appointed Judge Michael P. Boggs, Superior Courts, Waycross Judicial Circuit, and Judge Ural Glanville, Superior Court, Atlanta Judicial Circuit, to serve as judicial representatives on the Special Council on Criminal Justice Reform.

Jury Composition Reform Act. Gov. Nathan Deal signed HB 415 on May 3, 2011, implementing a series of procedures and rules to compile a statewide, inclusive juror source list and allowing the Supreme Court to revise the Unified Appeal rule ending forced balancing of the jury box. Effective July 1, 2012.

Mental Health Courts. SB 39 authorized the Judicial Council of Georgia to create standards for operation of mental health courts.

Judicial Elections. HB 302 moved nonpartisan elections — including judicial elections — to the general primary in July. Consequently, run-off elections, if necessary, will be held during the November general election. In recent years, several run-off elections were necessary for state-wide judicial elections, which burdened the state and counties with additional costs.

Fee Reduction. The General Assembly reversed its 2010 fee increase by enacting legislation that reduced the per page rate for preparation of the record and transcript from \$10 to \$1.

Training of Magistrate Court Judges. SB 47 allows the Magistrate Court Training Council the flexibility to decide on a yearly basis the required number of CE hours within a window of 12 to 20 hours.

Municipal Court Judges Qualifications. The signing of SB 30 by Gov. Nathan Deal on May 11, 2011, requires municipal court judges be licensed attorneys in good standing with the State Bar of Georgia. Newly elected or appointed judges must meet training requirements prescribed in OCGA § 36-32-27. Previously, basic or minimum qualifications for municipal court judges were set locally.

Justice at the Center...



Judicial Council of Georgia

The 25-member Judicial Council develops policies for improving and administering the Georgia courts. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia serves as chair of the Council; membership, as established by Order of the Supreme Court, consists of judges from each level of court: appellate, superior, state, juvenile, probate, magistrate, and municipal. The Council oversees the work of the Administrative Office of the Courts through established oversight committees: Standing Committee on Policy and Legislation, Committee on Court Reporting Matters, Committee on Accountability Courts, Judicial Workload Assessment Committee, and Records Retention Committee.

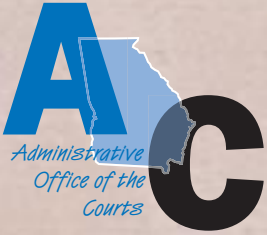


Front row, from left: **Judge Cynthia D. Wright**, Superior Court, Atlanta Judicial Circuit; **Judge Arch W. McGarity**, Superior Court, Flint Judicial Circuit; **Judge Kathlene Gosselin**, Superior Courts, Northeastern Judicial Circuit; **Chief Justice Carol W. Hunstein**, Supreme Court of Georgia; **Judge Mary Kathryn Moss**, Magistrate Court, Chatham County; **Judge Rashida Oliver**, Municipal Court of East Point; **Judge Todd A. Blackwell**, Probate Court of Baldwin County.

Back row, from left: **Judge H. Frederick Mullis, Jr.**, Superior Court, Oconee Judicial Circuit; **Judge C. Andrew Fuller**, Superior Courts, Northeastern Judicial Circuit; **Judge Mark Anthony Scott**, Superior Court, Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit; **Judge Lawton E. Stephens**, Superior Courts, Western Judicial Circuit; **Judge Bill Bass**, State Court of Grady County; **Chief Judge John J. Ellington**, Court of Appeals of Georgia; **Judge Louisa Abbot**, Superior Court, Eastern Judicial Circuit; **Judge Lynwood Jordan**, Probate Court of Forsyth County; **Judge Martha C. Christian**, Superior Court, Macon Judicial Circuit; **Judge Ronnie Joe Lane**, Superior Courts, Pataula Judicial Circuit; **Judge F. Bryant Henry**, Juvenile Courts, Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit; **Judge John Pridgen**, Superior Courts, Cordele Judicial Circuit.

Not pictured: **Presiding Justice George H. Carley**, Supreme Court of Georgia; **Presiding Judge Herbert E. Phipps**, Court of Appeals of Georgia; **Judge Mary E. Staley**, Superior Court, Cobb Judicial Circuit; **Judge Larry B. Mims**, State Court of Tift County; **Judge Deborah Edwards**, Juvenile Court, Houston Judicial Circuit; **Judge William A. "Al" Willis**, Magistrate Court, Dooly County; **Judge Nelly F. Withers**, Recorder's Court of DeKalb County.

Administrative Office of the Courts



The work of the Administrative Office of the Courts consists of shared services provided variously to the trial and appellate courts of the state.

In 2011, the agency was organized into three line divisions: Court Services, Information Technology, and Financial Administration. Organizational units and their functions are presented here in brief.

Court Services

Many AOC core functions involving daily contact with judges, clerks, court administrators, and other court system professionals are grouped in the agency's **Court Services Division**. Annual case counts for each class of court and complex studies on judicial workload assessment for the superior courts are spearheaded by the *Research, Evaluation, and Planning Section*. Court Services also includes the *Certification and Licensing Section* which regulates, tests, and administers licenses to Georgia court reporters, foreign language interpreters, dispute mediators and neutrals, and private probation companies.

The *Judicial Liaison* performs liaison and secretariat services to enhance the business of affiliated organizations and ensure productive communication across the judicial system.

The *Children, Families, and the Courts Section* is an umbrella for activities centered around protecting vulnerable citizens and improving court processes to ensure their

wellbeing. Its efforts are funded through a combination of federal and private foundation grants, contracts, and state appropriations.

The *Accountability Courts and Grants Management Section* administers and provides technical assistance related to grant funded programs and supports the Judicial Council Accountability Courts Committee. In FY11, \$1.9 million in state funds were distributed to 72 courts employing alternative processes tailored to substance abuse offenders. \$160,000 in federal funds were used to host a training and development conference attended by state and national accountability court and law enforcement professionals.

This section also manages state-funded grants to local non-profit groups for provision of civil legal services to victims of domestic violence. Additionally, a \$69,130 grant of federal funds was awarded to the AOC through the Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to enhance family violence court processes.



Administrative Office of the Courts

Information Technology

The AOC Information Technology Division plays a central role in courts' automation efforts around the state. The unit has primary responsibility for maintaining the agency's internal network, court system personnel database, desktop software and equipment, E-mail, web, and list-serv capabilities. In addition, IT staff is integral to technology initiatives involving other court system groups.

AOC IT also provides and maintains case management systems for over 300 courts at all levels.

Financial Administration Division

The Financial Administration Division assists 29 separate judicial branch programs with tasks including: budget preparation and management; payroll administration and audit compliance; and invoicing and accounts payable. The AOC Financial Administration Division also handles budget inquiries from the Governor and General Assembly on behalf of each Judicial Council budget unit.

During FY11, the Financial Administration Division successfully implemented Remote Deposit Capture (RDC) for the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education (ICJE) after its budget was cut drastically and was directed to charge for the program's services. Using RDC, ICJE staff scans checks and electronically submits payments to the bank. The AOC is then notified of the transaction and records on the accounting records.

Resources: Appropriations

The Judicial Council budget unit sustained a -0.65% reduction by the General Assembly. The FY 2011 base budget request of \$14,809,646 resulted in an adjusted appropriation of \$12,969,365. Breakdown for the Judicial Council Budget Unit showing individual percentage changes are as follows:

| | | |
|--|--------------|-----------|
| Georgia Appellate Resource Center | \$565,500 | (+2.63%) |
| Office of Dispute Resolution | \$65,013 | (+5.01%) |
| Institute of Continuing Judicial Education | \$486,789 | (-48.59%) |
| Judicial Qualifications Commission | \$347,709 | (-0.18%) |
| Judicial Council | \$11,504,354 | (+2.63%) |

Professionalism in the Courts:

Regulating and licensing those who serve in Georgia's courts

Board of Court Reporting

The Board of Court Reporting regulates the profession of court reporting, including individuals and firms, through standards, licensure, testing, and discipline.

35 New certifications
1,056 Annual renewals
117 Court reporting firms
registered/renewed

Emergency Judicial Permits -
5 for FY11

County and Municipal Probation Advisory Council

The County and Municipal Probation Advisory Council ensures uniform professional standards and agreements are maintained by private and governmental probation supervision entities providing misdemeanor probation services.

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 8 Letters of Reprimand | 40 Compliance reviews |
| 1 Administrative Fine | 10 Hearings |
| 5 Placed on Probation | |
| 0 Registration Revoked | Sanctions |
| 1 No Action Taken | 8 Letters of reprimand |
| | 1 Administrative fine |
| | 5 Placed on probation |

Commission on Interpreters

The Commission on Interpreters sets guidelines for the use of interpreters in all courts. In FY2011, the Commission partnered with local universities to offer four 40-hour workshops covering court-related topics and techniques to help prepare 114 prospective interpreters for the National Certification Exam.

26 New certifications
127 Annual renewals
13 Languages
213 Written or oral examinations administered

Office of Dispute Resolution

The Office of Dispute Resolution oversees an alternative dispute resolution system in the courts that helps the judiciary fulfill its constitutional mandate to provide for the speedy, efficient, and inexpensive resolution of disputes and prosecutions. GODR also provides Georgia litigants with a true and effective alternative to traditional litigation.

380 New registrations
1564 Renewals
66 Reinstatements
2010 Total



Administrative Office of the Courts

Digitizing the AOC's Records

In FY11, the AOC engaged in a massive scanning project that enabled the agency to divest itself of roughly 347,600 pieces of paper.

Building from a pilot project in FY10 — which included roughly half the agency — staff in the Office of Dispute Resolution, the Director's Office, and Court Services Division reviewed their files. Once reviewed, files were either scanned or destroyed based on the newly updated judicial record retention rules (*see page 13*).

All files are securely stored on Laserfische, a content management system used by the State of Georgia government and are accessible for instantaneous review.

In the process of scanning, 20 filing cabinets were removed from the office and a number of three-ring binders were donated to a middle school in Dallas, GA.

Evaluating Employee Performance

AOC Human Resources launched a new and innovative employee performance evaluation system: ePerformance, a web-based application developed by the Georgia State Personnel Administration. The application allows managers and employees to collaborate on performance measures and assists managers in evaluating performance objectively based on the employee's job description. Human Resources staff received training on the new system and held four trainings for AOC staff and managers. The trainings covered the five statewide core competencies measured in ePerformance: Customer Service, Teamwork and Cooperation, Results Orientation, Accountability, and Judgment and Decision Making.

With this new tool, staff and managers will assess each employee's strengths and accomplishments and help identify employee needs, professional goals, and areas for growth on an ongoing basis.

Director's Office

Essential agency functions reporting directly to the AOC director include: legal services provided by the *General Counsel*; personnel matters handled by *Human Resources*; and agency publications and media relations assigned to the *Communications and Outreach Section*.

Additionally, the *Governmental Affairs Section* of the Director's Office is a clearinghouse for judicial branch legislative initiatives. For the duration of each legislative session, AOC staff maintains a website specific to actions of the General Assembly and the status of court-related legislation. With the assistance of student interns, the staff provides information to members of the House and Senate and their committees. The AOC also lends supports to other judicial branch groups and the State Bar of Georgia on issues of common concern.

Agency-wide Initiatives

In FY11, AOC staff worked together to successfully implement many projects including:

- Digitizing the AOC's records based on the revised Record Retention Schedules (*see facing page*);
- Using the ePerformance application to evaluate employee performance (*see facing page*);
- Volunteering time and resources for those in need. AOC staff members volunteered a combined 78 hours at the Atlanta Community Food Bank in February 2011. Additionally, staff contributed \$4,253 through state-sponsored charitable efforts.

Administrative Office of the Courts



Accountability Courts

In many counties judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and treatment providers work to provide accountability for offenders through the state's accountability courts.

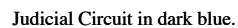
These local courts, designed to promote responsibility, offer offenders a chance for intensive treatment while attending regular court sessions and maintaining employment or continuing education rather than being incarcerated.

Not a one-size-fits-all program, the state's accountability courts include Adult/Felony Drug Courts, DUI Courts, Juvenile Drug Courts, Family Dependency Treatment Courts, Child Support Problem Solving Courts, Mental Health Courts, and Veterans' Courts. In 1994, Bibb County began operating the first accountability court, an Adult Felony Drug Court, in Georgia. By the end of FY2011, 130 courts were in operation across the state.

Accountability Courts Caseload FY11

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Active Clients on June 30, 2010 | 4,034 |
| Clients Reviewed for Acceptance | 7,261 |
| Clients Admitted | 3,105 |
| Graduates | 1,540 |
| Terminations | 935 |
| Non-completers* | 82 |
| Total Clients Served for FY11 | 6,591 |

*Death, medical issues, mental illness, etc.





Timeline: Georgia Courts

July 2010

Georgia Commission on Family Violence Moves to AOC

On July 1, 2010, the Georgia Commission on Family Violence (GCFV) once again found a home at the Administrative Office of the Courts after eight years away from the agency.

“Your Guide to the Georgia Courts” *En Español*

The Georgia Committee on Access and Fairness in the Courts and the AOC collaborated to translate and publish the popular brochure *Your Guide to the Georgia Courts* into Spanish.

August 2010

Electronic Publication of Rules of the Georgia Courts

In August 2010, georgiacourts.gov became the home to the official Rules of the Georgia Courts. SB 388 — Electronic Publication — gave the AOC and other agencies the authority to publish information in electronic format: “The [R]eporter [of Decisions] shall publish a rules compilation in electronic format that is made accessible to the public through the Internet or other suitable electronic methods and shall update the rules compilation as necessary.”

Upon revision, the rules for the Supreme Court and Courts of Appeals, and the Uniform Rules of the Superior, State, Juvenile, Probate, Magistrate, and Municipal Courts are posted on georgiacourts.gov in accordance with OCGA § 50-18-2.

National Public Information Officer’s Conference Holds Meeting in Georgia

The 2010 Conference of Court Public Information Officers (CCPIO) meeting was hosted in Atlanta on August 8-10, 2010. Hosted by the AOC and Supreme Court of Georgia, the annual national Conference attracted more than 50 public information officers from federal, state, and local courts and state administrative offices, including participants from the Caribbean Court of Justice and Guam.

Georgia judges and local public information officers participated in many pan-

Judicial Council • September 17, 2010 Meeting

- ❖ Judicial Council Workload Assessment Committee notifies the Judicial Council of its withdrawal of new judgeship requests to the General Assembly, even though 11 circuits qualify for recommendations;
- ❖ Judicial Council endorses jury reform legislation, production of an inclusive juror source list, and promulgation of a Supreme Court Rule for compiling the source list;
- ❖ Judicial Council approves the records retention schedule (see next page).

els, including *Strategies for Responding to Attacks on the Judiciary*, *Courtroom Access for the Media — Is There a Limit?*, and *Terror and the Courts: A Case Study*.

September 2010

Georgia Commission on Family Violence Conference

On September 12-14, 2010, the Commission on Family Violence held its 16th Annual conference entitled: No More

“Either/Or”: Bridging Community and System Responses to Domestic Violence. Over 300 participants gathered in Peachtree City, GA.

Judicial Council

The Judicial Council met on September 17, 2010, in Forsyth, GA.

Record Retention

In September 2010, the Judicial Council of Georgia adopted the Official Judicial Branch Record Retention Schedules (“Schedules”), a complete revision of prior judicial retention schedules. A provision for the imaging of records and electronic storage allows for the destruction of paper records, freeing up valuable storage space for clerks and courts.

The Schedules are current with the Official Code of Georgia and provide quick references to changes for the judiciary. Additionally, standards for electronic imaging are outlined and previously ambiguous references are clarified. Previously record retention schedules varied from court to court, now the Schedules provide uniformity for the entire Georgia judiciary.

On October 7, 2009, the Supreme Court of Georgia issued an Order completely revising the procedures to use for working with record retention schedules. At the succeeding Judicial Council meeting, the Judicial Council Record Retention Committee was tasked with comprehensively revising the 1978 schedules. The Committee, created in 2003, had already identified the latest procedures and best practices for judicial record retention from other states. Additionally, staff researched the status of electronic record keeping at the regional and national levels. In November 2009, the Committee finalized its agenda for revision of the Schedules and adopted an agenda with mandatory deadlines to complete the task. Interested parties were notified that the revision was underway and could send recommendations to the Committee. In close consultation with the Secretary of State, the Committee adopted the imaging standards used by the state.

The newly edited schedules were presented to the Judicial Council in September 2010, distributed to the State Records Committee, and were approved on October 14, 2010.



Timeline: Georgia Courts

December 2010

17th Annual ADR Institute and 2010 Neutrals' Conference

With more than 300 participants in attendance the one-day training conference, held on December 10, 2010, proved to be a success for the Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution.

Workshops and sessions were video recorded. A one-hour segment was made available for viewing as a free CE offering to registered neutrals.

January 2011

Judicial Council

On January 11, 2011, the Judicial Council met in Athens, GA.

Caseload Reporting

Judges and clerks were notified via E-mail of the CY2010 Caseload Study and were encouraged to submit data through the AOC portal. Fifty-three percent of submissions were received electronically. Superior court clerks were furnished with

Process Server Certification

The Judicial Council of Georgia adopted rules for process server program administration and operation on January 21, 2011. The certification program, legislatively established by OCGA § 9-11-4.1, operates in partnership with the Georgia Sheriffs' Association (GSA). The program, rules, and regulations created by a subcommittee of the Judicial Council seek to improve the standards of practice for private service of process and to provide a list of persons eligible to serve process in courts statewide.

Initiated by Rep. Wendell Willard and the Georgia Association of Professional Process Servers (GAPPS), the intent was to initiate legislation that would empower process servers to have the ability to work on a statewide level, rather than for a specific court or judge. During the planning processes, Rep. Willard invited the AOC to contribute to draft legislation, SB 491. After passage of the bill, AOC staff worked with Rep. Willard and other stakeholders, such as GSA and GAPPS, to learn more about the profession of serving process as well as the needs of the courts.

In writing the official rules and regulations, the Judicial Council subcommittee and AOC staff researched standards from other states and also incorporated ways to raise the professionalism among those presently serving Georgia's courts. The rules and regulations include specifications for a twelve-hour precertification training and certification test. Also outlined are the application and renewal processes, elements of approved training programs, ongoing qualifications, professional standards, and necessary skills and knowledge for certified process servers.

Judicial Council • January 11, 2011 Meeting

- ◆ Judicial Council adopts rules for Process Server Certification (see facing page);
- ◆ Judicial Council Workload Assessment Committee announces a new time and motion study to commence in March 2011;
- ◆ Chief Justice Hunstein announces the Conference of Chief Justices/Conference of State Court Administrators will meet in Atlanta in August.

the *Georgia Caseload Reporting Guide: CY2010*, an instruction manual created by the AOC to assist with collecting data.

State of the Judiciary

Chief Justice Carol W. Hunstein delivered her second State of the Judiciary Address to a joint session of the Georgia General Assembly on February 16, 2011. (See page 2.)

February 2011

Benham Service Awards

On February 15, 2011, *Judge Samuel D. Ozburn*, Superior Courts, Alcovy Judicial Circuit, and *Judge M. Anthony Baker*, Juvenile Court, Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit, were among the 2011 recipients of the State Bar of Georgia's Justice Robert Benham Award for Community Service.

Time and Motion Study

The AOC, under the direction of the Judicial Workload Assessment Committee, conducted a Time and Motion Study to determine circuit judgeship needs. Forms were distributed to the state's 205 superior court judges to record their day-to-day activities for the month of March. One hundred forty-seven judges participated detailing their work on and off the bench.

Data collected was used in conjunction with disposition information during case-load reporting from the clerks of superior court to establish new times to disposition. A new circuit classification — single county suburban — was created as a result of the 2011 study. In order to conserve resources, communications regarding the study were conducted exclusively through electronic means.

March 2011

DUI Court Report

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration released "An Evaluation of the Three Georgia DUI Courts" in March 2011, which supports the work of Accountability Courts in Georgia. The study evaluated DUI Courts in Chatham, Clarke, and Hall counties reviewing data from 2003-2006.

During that time, these courts experienced a 79% retention rate indicating that most participants remained in these programs and were motivated to complete it. Offenders who graduated from one of the DUI courts experienced a 9% recidivism



Timeline: Georgia Courts

rate; terminated offenders experienced a 26% recidivism rate. The report estimates that the DUI courts prevented between 47 and 112 repeat arrests.

April 2011

Judicial Council

The Judicial Council met on April 22, 2011, in Forsyth, GA.

May 2011

“Your Guide to the Georgia Courts” Translated into Mandarin Chinese

Following the success of its Spanish translation, *Your Guide to the Georgia Courts* was translated into Mandarin Chinese. Copies of the Chinese, Spanish, and English version are available free of charge from the AOC.

Judicial Council • April 22, 2011 Meeting

- ❖ Mr. Adam Gelb, Pew Charitable Trust, discusses America’s rising rates of incarceration that are driving an urgent prison reform movement;
- ❖ Chief Justice Hunstein calls on judges of all classes of court to help support the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education’s efforts to restore full funding during the legislative session.

Jury Composition Reform Act

On May 3, 2011, Gov. Nathan Deal signed the Jury Composition Reform Act — HB 415 — at the State Bar of Georgia building in Atlanta.

John H. Ruffin, Jr. Courthouse Dedicated

The Augusta-Richmond County Judicial Center, John H. Ruffin, Jr. Courthouse was officially dedicated on May 18, 2011. The Courthouse is named for Judge John H. Ruffin, Jr., the former Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals of Georgia who died in 2010 after retiring from the bench. Judge Ruffin was a civil rights attorney and Superior Court Judge in the Augusta Judicial Circuit before being appointed to the Court of Appeals bench.

Child Support E-filing

On May 17, 2011, the Clarke County Division of Child Support Services began filing documents electronically in the Clarke County Superior Court using the Georgia Judicial Exchange Child Support E-filing (GAJE) system, designed by the AOC and the Georgia Superior Court Clerks’ Cooperative Authority (GSCCCA).

By the end of FY2011, more than 25 counties had filed 18,622 child support documents using GAJE.

Jury Reform Bill

HB 415 — the Jury Reform Bill — creates a statewide jury pool, ending forced balancing of the jury box and implementing a series of procedures and rules to compile a statewide, inclusive juror source list. The Council of Superior Court Clerks will have the responsibility to establish and maintain a statewide master jury list for each county in Georgia. The Department of Driver Services and the Secretary of State, Elections Division will provide data on Georgia drivers and voters for this purpose.

HB 415 is the culmination of a nine-year effort. In May 2002, Augusta was host to the Georgia Jury Summit that brought together 146 court system participants whose discussions centered on improving both the perception and reality of jury service in Georgia's civil and criminal court system. In 2004, the Supreme Court Jury Composition Committee, chaired by Justice Hugh Thompson, was created to continue work on jury reform.

Accountability Courts Conference

The Judicial Council of Georgia Committee on Accountability Courts hosted its seventh annual conference at the Renaissance Waverly Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia on May 31 - June 2, 2011. The 2011 conference, entitled "The Measure of Tomorrow: Make Every Connection Matter," was attended by more than 600 Drug, DUI, and Mental Health Court professionals including judges, case workers, service providers, and law enforcement officers from around the nation.

The AOC Accountability Courts and Grants Management Section received \$160,000 in federal funds to host the program.

June 2011

eCitation Portal

The AOC developed, in partnership with Wipro Technologies Limited, the Electronic Citation Payment System (eCitation) Portal. The Portal is an enhancement for TIPS (Traffic Information Processing System), a web-based software program that serves all classes of courts through facilitation of automation and information sharing.

The Portal provides citizens a convenient way to check citation status and fine amount, offers online payment of fines, and provides proof of payment. For courts, eCitation decreases courthouse traffic, frees up staff time, automates the remittance process, fully interfaces with TIPS, and offers the latest National Information Exchange Model (NIEM) compliance.

The Supreme Court of Georgia

The Supreme Court of Georgia, the state's highest court, is composed of a Chief Justice, a Presiding Justice, and five Justices. The court's primary function is to review decisions made in a lower trial or appellate court. Cases are assigned to one of the seven justices for preparation of opinions. The draft opinion is circulated to all other justices for study; after discussion *en banc* the opinion is adopted or rejected by vote of the justices.

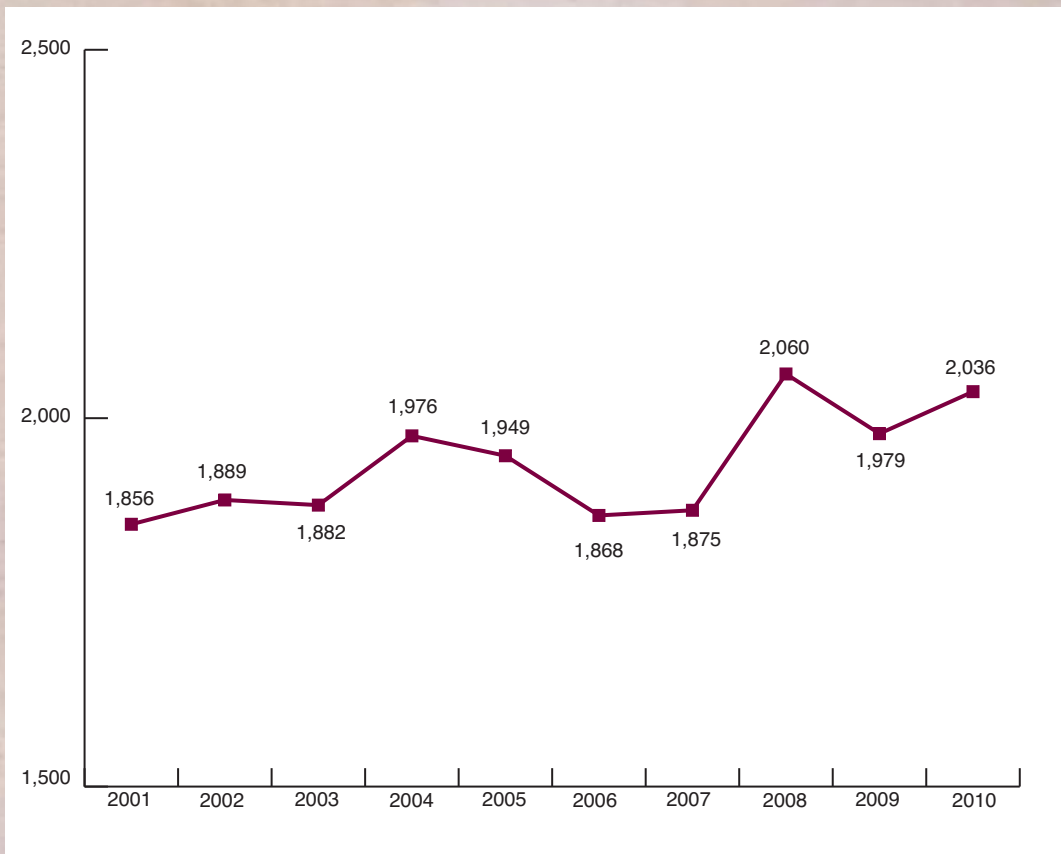
| Cases Filed | 2009 | 2010 |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Direct Appeals | 554 | 471 |
| Cross Appeals | NR | 11 |
| Rule 34(4)(F) | NR | 21 |
| Death Penalty | NR | 3 |
| Petitions for Certiorari | 564 | 479 |
| Granted Petitions for Certiorari | NR | 53 |
| Certified Questions | 6 | 2 |
| Applications for Appeal | | |
| Habeas Corpus | 393 | 402 |
| Discretionary | 260 | 216 |
| Interlocutory | 46 | 45 |
| Interim Review | 3 | 7 |
| Attorney Disciplinaries | 126 | 155 |
| Bar Admissions | 8* | 5 |
| Original Petitions | 9 | 2 |
| Emergency Motions | 10 | 14 |
| Execution Matters | NR | 3 |
| Death Penalty Habeas Corpus | NR | 4 |
| Unauthorized Practice/ Formal Advisory | NR | 4 |
| Time Extensions | NR | 90 |
| Judicial Qualifications | NR | 7 |
| Appointments of Special Master | NR | 42 |
| Total | 1,979 | 2,036 |

*Includes Judicial Qualifications
NR = Not Reported.

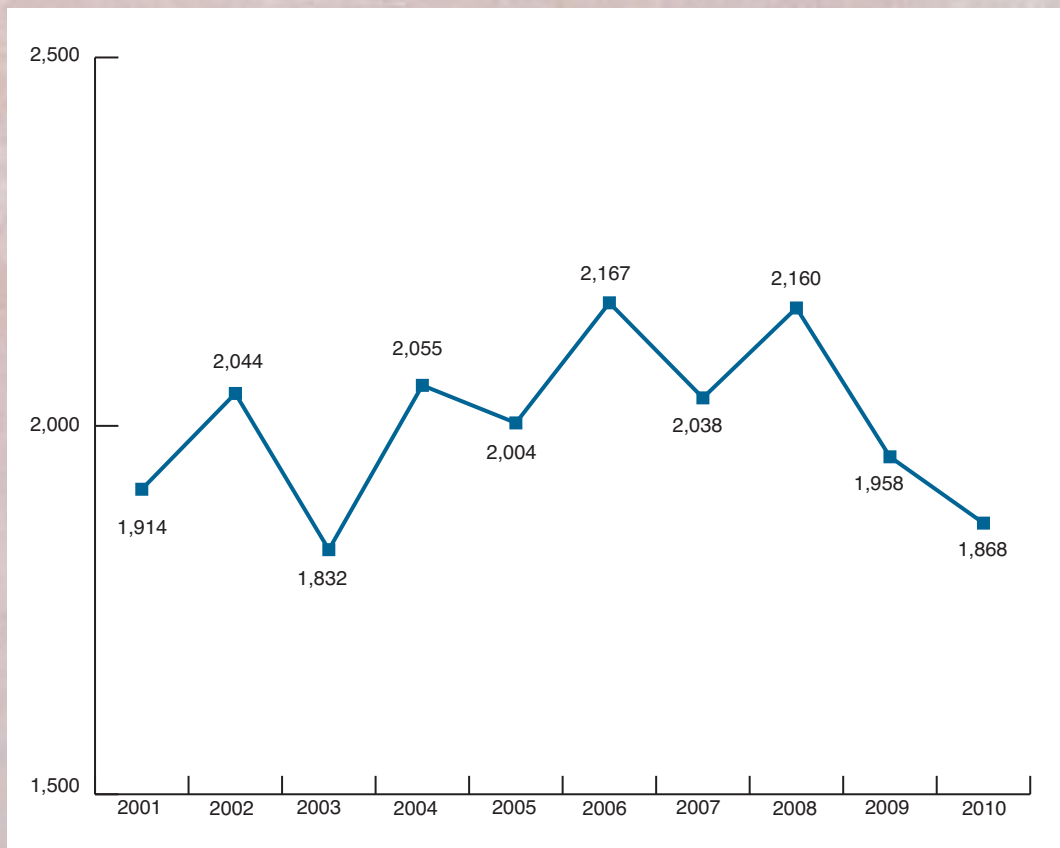
| Cases Disposed | 2009 | 2010 |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| By Opinion | 325 | 357 |
| Affirmed without Opinion | 8 | 6 |
| Stricken from Docket | 1 | 1 |
| Allowed Withdrawn | 21 | 18 |
| Transferred to Court of Appeals | 93 | 92 |
| Appeals Dismissed | 125 | 106 |
| Cross Appeals | NR | 8 |
| Rule 34(4)(F) | NR | 27 |
| Death Penalty | NR | 3 |
| Certified Questions | NR | 8 |
| Petition for Certiorari | | |
| Granted | 56 | 51 |
| Denied | 420 | 403 |
| Other | 64 | 45 |
| Habeas Corpus Applications | | |
| Granted | 32 | 25 |
| Denied | 296 | 235 |
| Dismissed | 75 | 56 |
| Other | 4 | 6 |
| Discretionary Applications | | |
| Granted | 52 | 52 |
| Denied | 91 | 100 |
| Transferred to Court of Appeals | 45 | 26 |
| Other | 58 | 32 |
| Interlocutory Applications | | |
| Granted | 14 | 12 |
| Denied | 22 | 19 |
| Dismissed | NR | 6 |
| Transferred to Court of Appeals | 7 | 9 |
| Other | 3 | 3 |
| Interim Review | | |
| Granted | 2 | 4 |
| Denied | 1 | 3 |
| Extraordinary Motions | | |
| Granted | 0 | 2 |
| Denied | 1 | 10 |
| Transferred to Court of Appeals | 3 | 1 |
| Dismissed | 1 | 3 |
| Attorney Discipline** | 132 | 130 |
| Bar Admissions | 3 | 3 |
| Judicial Qualifications | 3 | 7 |
| Total | 1,958 | 1,868 |

**Includes Appointing of Special Master
NR = Not Reported.

Supreme Court Filings 2001-2010



Supreme Court Dispositions 2001-2010



The Court of Appeals of Georgia

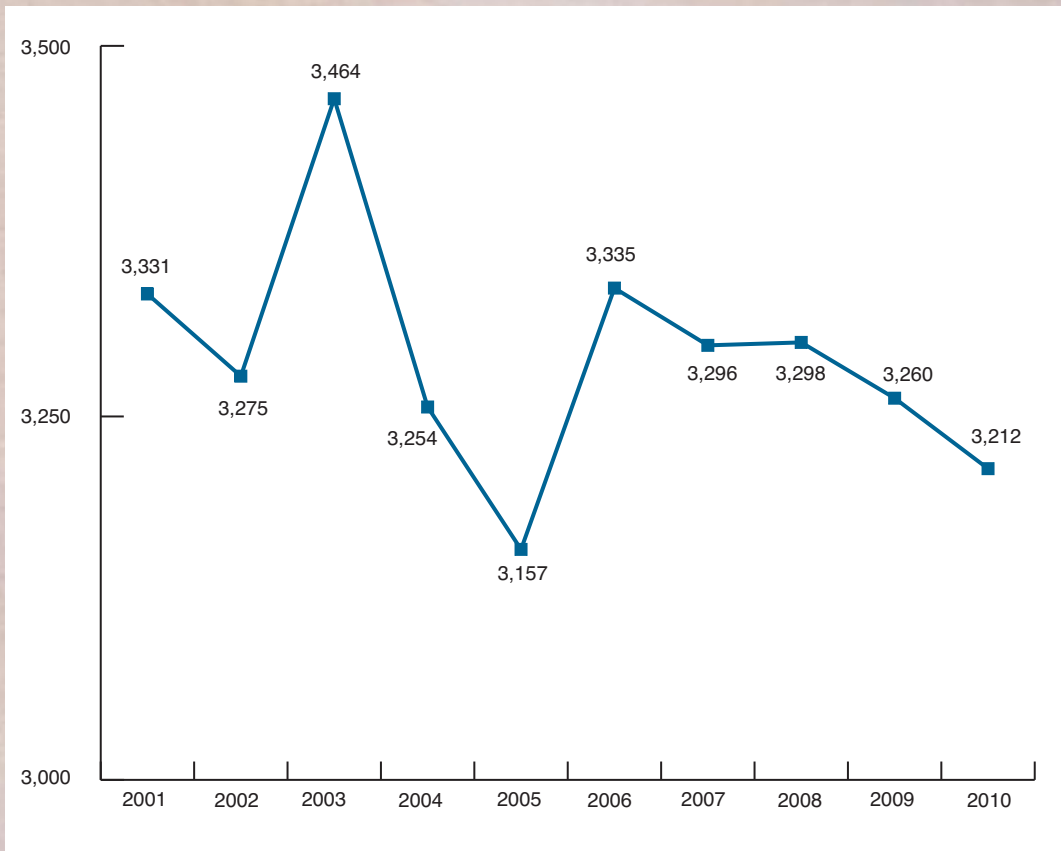
The Court of Appeals, made up of twelve judges, has constitutional jurisdiction over appeals from superior, state, and juvenile courts in all cases where exclusive jurisdiction is not reserved to the Supreme Court of Georgia. Each case appealed to the court is heard by a panel of three judges. The Chief Judge of the court appoints a Presiding Judge and assigns two other judges to each panel. If a judge of a panel dissents, the case is assigned to a larger panel for decision.

| Filings | 2009 | 2010 |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Direct Appeals | 2,410 | 2,364 |
| Discretionary Applications | 503 | 509 |
| Interlocutory Applications | 318 | 305 |
| 40 (b) Motions | 29 | 34 |
| Total | 3,260 | 3,212 |

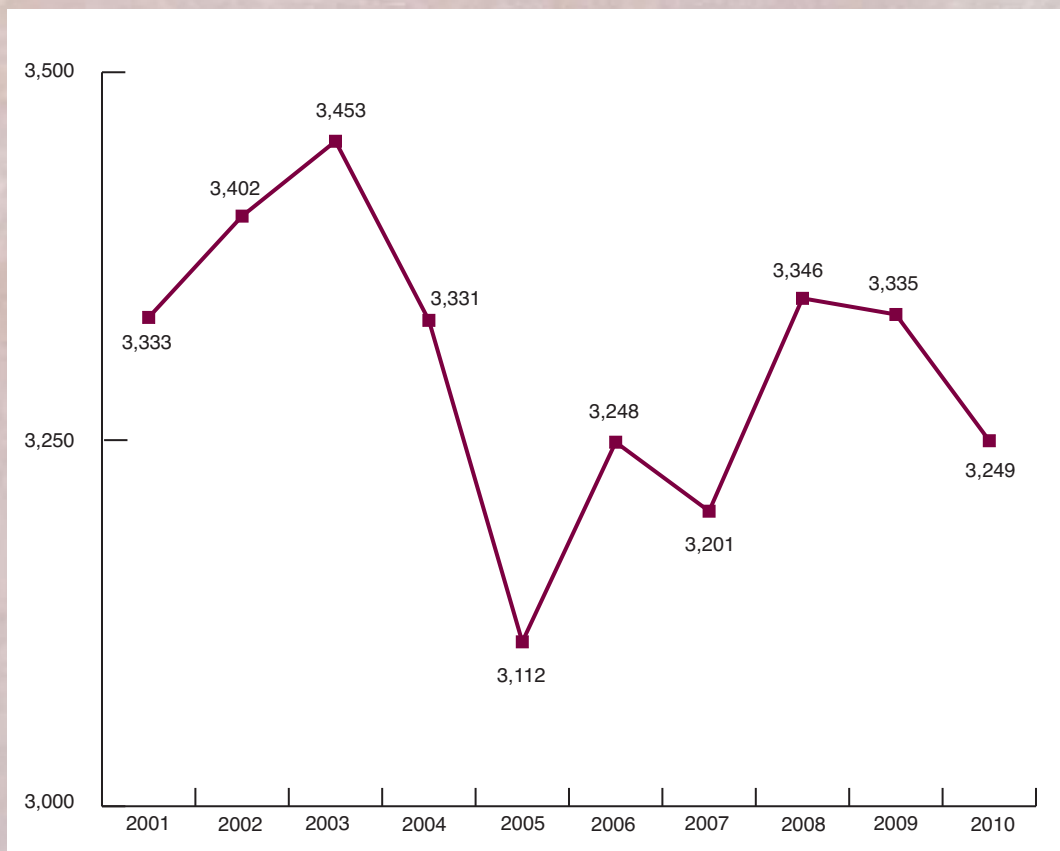
| Dispositions | 2009 | 2010 |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Direct Appeals | | |
| By Opinion | 1,277 | 1,070 |
| Companion Cases | 126 | 121 |
| Non-Published Opinion & Rule 36 | 367 | 430 |
| Order | 729 | 633 |
| Total | 2,499 | 2,254 |
| Discretionary Applications | | |
| Granted | 130 | 136 |
| Denied | 214 | 244 |
| Dismissed | 129 | 100 |
| Transferred | 25 | 25 |
| Withdrawn | 0 | 1 |
| Other | 4 | 8 |
| Total | 502 | 514 |
| Interlocutory Applications | | |
| Granted | 117 | 123 |
| Denied | 165 | 184 |
| Dismissed | 16 | 19 |
| Transferred | 6 | 2 |
| Withdrawn | 1 | 1 |
| Other | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 305 | 329 |
| Total | 3,001 | 3,097 |

Court of Appeals

Court of Appeals Filings 2001-2010



Court of Appeals Dispositions 2001-2010



The Superior Courts

The 159 superior courts are general jurisdiction trial courts exercising both civil and criminal jurisdiction. Superior court judges hear all felony cases, domestic relations cases, equity cases and other civil matters. Superior courts have jurisdiction to hear appeals from lower courts as provided by the Georgia Constitution including appeals of judgments from the probate and magistrate courts that are handled as *de novo* appeals.

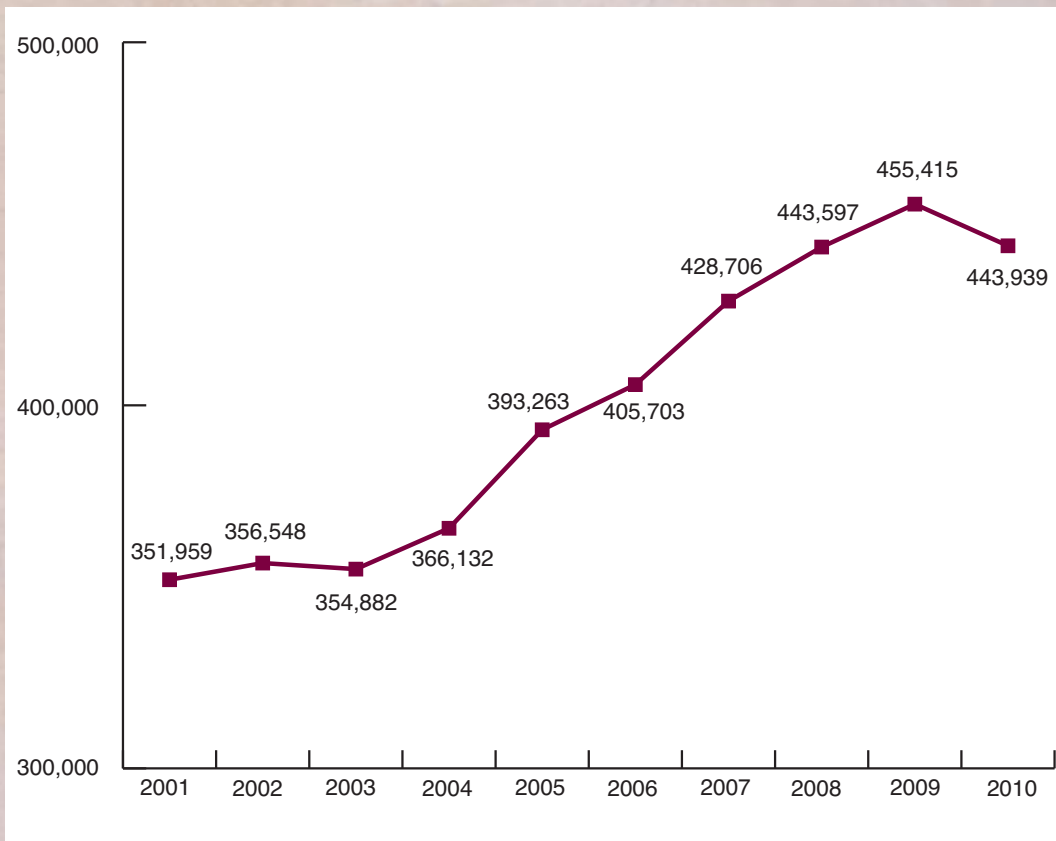
The superior courts are organized into 49 judicial circuits made up of one or more counties. Judicial circuits and new superior court judgeships are established by act of the General Assembly.

Superior court judges are constitutional officers who are elected to four-year terms in circuit-wide nonpartisan elections. Senior superior court judges may hear cases as assigned in any circuit.

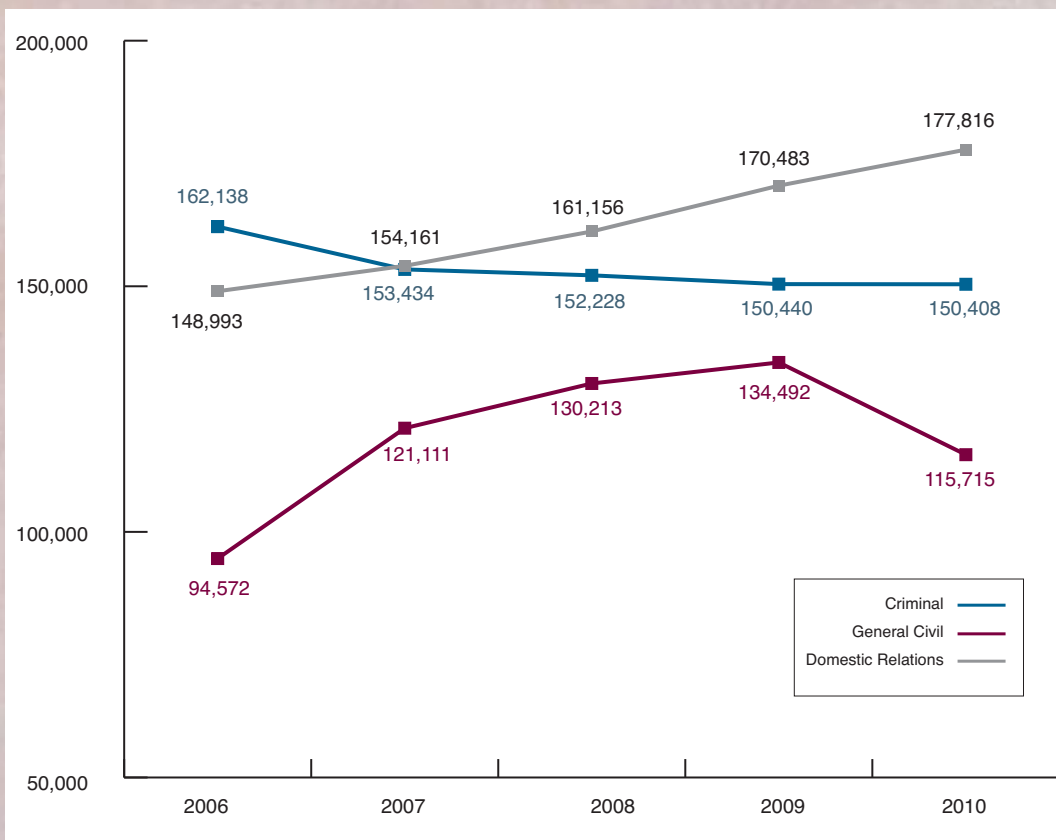
| | CY 2009 | CY 2010 |
|----------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Total Criminal | | |
| Dockets Filed | 150,440 | 148,640 |
| Defendants Filed | 163,639 | 161,742 |
| Serious Felony | | |
| Dockets Filed | 8,051 | 9,117 |
| Defendants Filed | 9,990 | 11,213 |
| Felony | | |
| Dockets Filed | 78,140 | 74,176 |
| Defendants Filed | 87,618 | 84,264 |
| Unified Appeals | 22 | 16 |
| Misdemeanor | | |
| Dockets Filed | 23,402 | 24,823 |
| Defendants Filed | 25,184 | 25,741 |
| Probation Revocation | 40,825 | 40,508 |
| Total Civil Dockets Filed | 304,975 | 293,531 |
| General Civil Dockets Filed | 134,492 | 115,715 |
| Domestic Relations Dockets Filed | 170,483 | 177,816 |
| Total Dockets Filed | 455,415 | 442,171 |

Superior Courts

Superior Courts Filings 2001-2010



Superior Courts Case Types 2006-2010



The State Courts

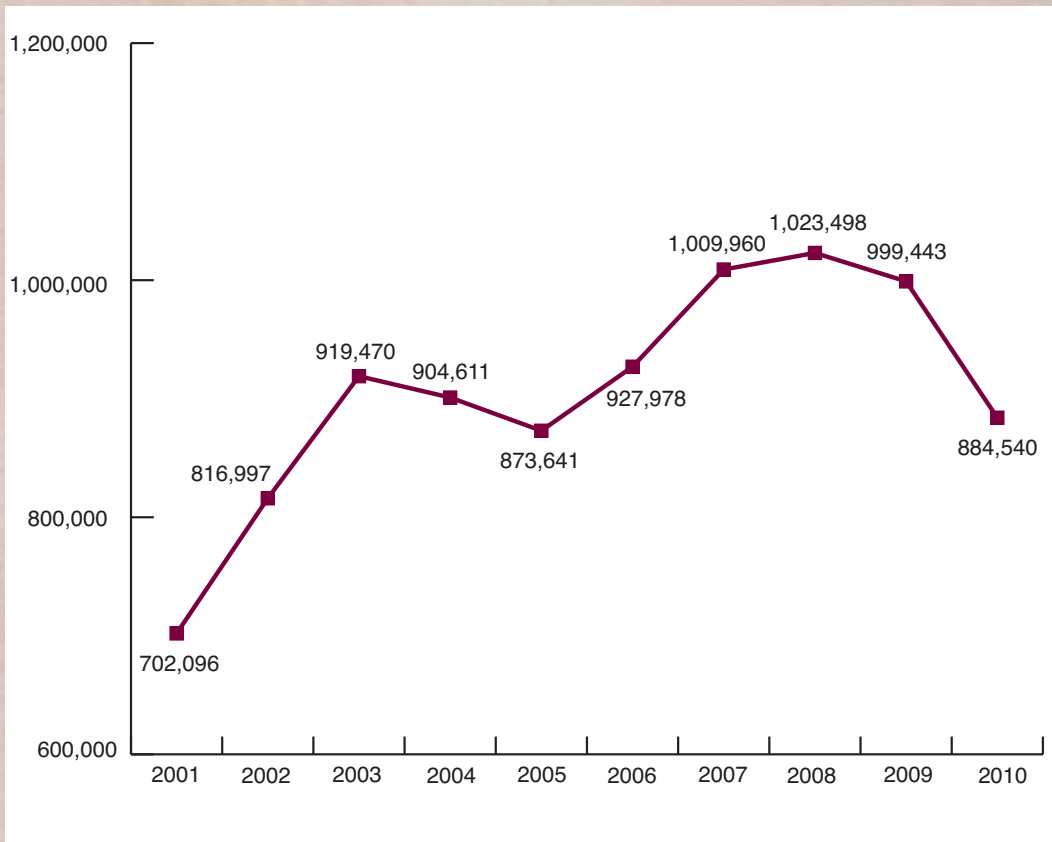
State courts are county courts that exercise limited jurisdiction. State court judges have criminal jurisdiction over misdemeanor offenses, felony preliminary hearings, traffic violations, application and issuance of search and arrest warrants. Civil matters not reserved exclusively to the superior courts are also adjudicated in state courts. Appeals of judgments from the magistrate courts may be sent to the state court and handled as a *de novo* appeal.

The General Assembly creates state courts by local legislation establishing the number of judges and their status as full-time or part-time. State court judges are elected to four-year terms in countywide, nonpartisan elections.

| | CY 2009 | CY 2010 |
|---------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Serious Traffic | | |
| Open | 24,288 | 24,530 |
| Filed | 44,635 | 35,067 |
| Disposed | 35,623 | 24,714 |
| Non-Traffic Misdemeanors | | |
| Open | 55,032 | 59,393 |
| Filed | 122,757 | 105,791 |
| Disposed | 108,107 | 98,998 |
| Probation Revocations | | |
| Open | 6,085 | 8,609 |
| Filed | 29,901 | 30,037 |
| Disposed | 17,941 | 17,744 |
| Other Traffic | | |
| Open | 164,742 | 163,523 |
| Filed | 473,877 | 441,162 |
| Disposed | 410,429 | 398,034 |
| Landlord/Tenant Disputes | | |
| Open | 422 | 282 |
| Filed | 99,197 | 66,956 |
| Disposed | 53,002 | 20,402 |
| Other Civil | | |
| Open | 91,161 | 87,978 |
| Filed | 215,556 | 188,143 |
| Disposed | 139,811 | 129,370 |
| Total | | |
| Open | 341,730 | 344,315 |
| Filed | 999,443 | 884,540 |
| Disposed | 764,913 | 689,262 |

State Courts

State Courts Filings 2001-2010



State Courts Criminal and Civil Filings 2006-2010



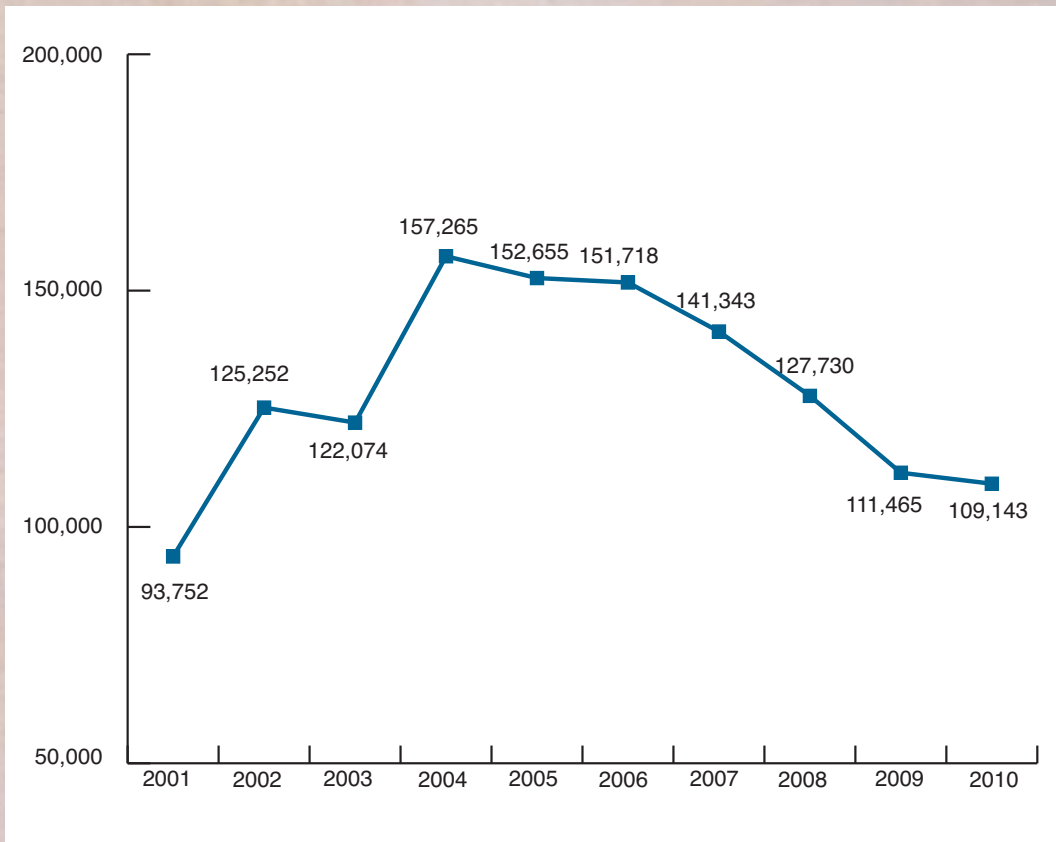
The Juvenile Courts

Jurisdiction of the juvenile courts extends to delinquent and unruly children under 17 years of age and deprived and neglected children under 18 years of age. Juvenile court judges have jurisdiction over minors who commit traffic violations, request consent to marry, or enlist in the armed forces. Juvenile courts have concurrent jurisdiction with superior courts in child custody and child support cases and in proceedings to terminate parental rights. Certain serious violent felonies committed by juveniles may be tried in superior court. Juvenile court judges are appointed by the superior court judges of the circuit to four-year terms.

| | CY 2009 | CY 2010 |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| <u>Delinquent</u> | | |
| Filed | 58,289 | 56,334 |
| Disposed | 55,001 | 53,128 |
| Open | 25,343 | 24,246 |
| <u>Unruly</u> | | |
| Filed | 17,411 | 17,588 |
| Disposed | 15,743 | 16,097 |
| Open | 7,755 | 8,411 |
| <u>Termination of Parental Rights</u> | | |
| Filed | 1,390 | 1,453 |
| Disposed | 1,282 | 1,289 |
| Open | 842 | 932 |
| <u>Deprived</u> | | |
| Filed | 20,055 | 20,488 |
| Disposed | 17,856 | 17,988 |
| Open | 15,280 | 12,863 |
| <u>Traffic</u> | | |
| Filed | 9,939 | 9,018 |
| Disposed | 9,202 | 8,420 |
| Open | 5,103 | 3,712 |
| <u>Special Proceedings</u> | | |
| Filed | 4,381 | 4,080 |
| Disposed | 3,984 | 3,446 |
| Open | 2,324 | 2,788 |
| <u>Total</u> | | |
| Filed | 111,465 | 109,143 |
| Disposed | 103,068 | 100,431 |
| Open | 56,647 | 52,998 |

Juvenile Courts

Juvenile Courts Filings 2001-2010



Juvenile Courts Delinquent and Other* Filings 2006-2010



*Other Filings consists of Unruly, Termination of Parental Rights, Deprived, Traffic, and Special Proceedings filings.

The Probate Courts

County probate courts exercise exclusive, original jurisdiction in the probate of wills, administration of estates, appointment of guardians, and involuntary hospitalization of incapacitated adults and other individuals.

Probate court judges are constitutional officers who are elected to four-year terms. All probate court judges administer oaths of office and issue marriage licenses. In some counties probate judges may hold habeas corpus hearings or preside over criminal preliminary hearings. Unless a jury trial is requested, a probate court judge may also hear certain misde-

meanors, traffic cases, and violations of state game and fish laws in counties where there is no state court.

In counties with a population of 96,000 or greater, the probate judge must be an attorney meeting the qualifications of a superior court judge. In those counties, jurisdiction is expanded or enhanced to include the right to a jury trial, with appeals directly to the Court of Appeals or Supreme Court.

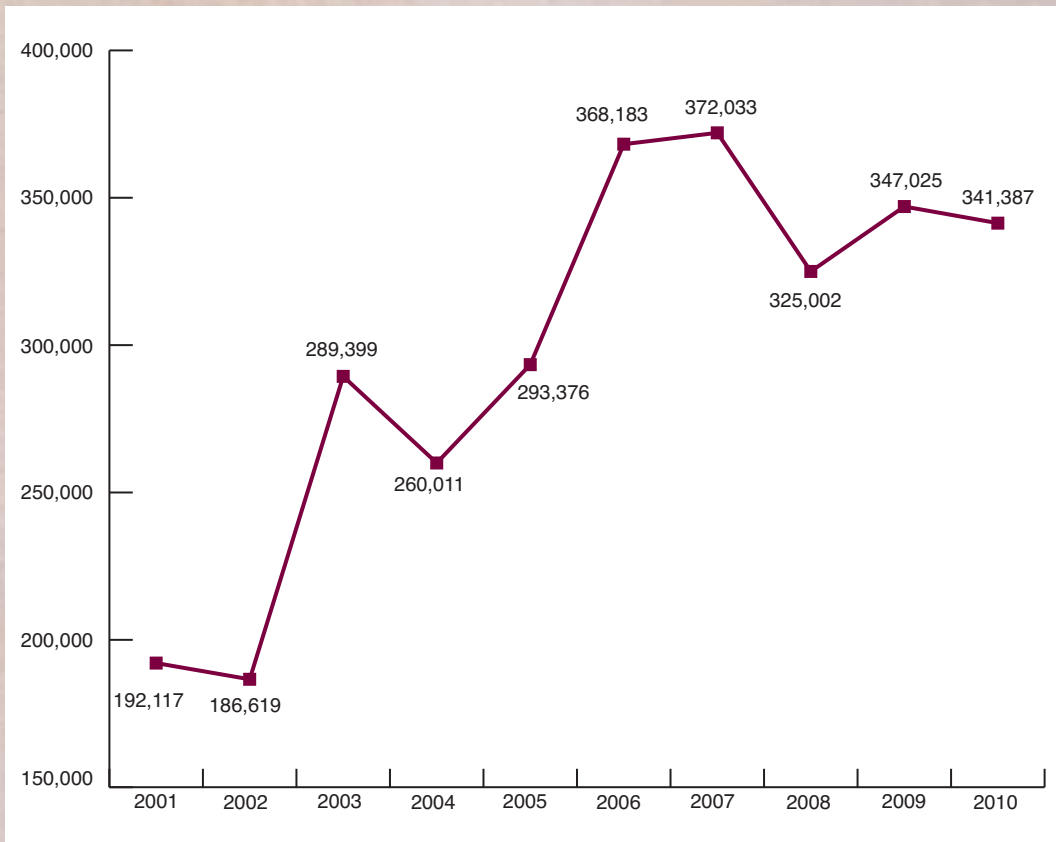
When authorized by local statute, probate judges serve as election supervisors and make appointments to certain local public offices.

| Civil | CY 2009 | CY 2010 |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Letters of Administration | 8,021 | 6,922 |
| No Administration Necessary | 698 | 684 |
| Will Probate | 19,848 | 20,239 |
| Year's Support | 2,254 | 2,209 |
| Guardianship | 14,351 | 13,426 |
| Petitions | 662 | 681 |
| Custodial | 18 | 86 |
| Citations | 1,753 | 1,162 |
| Miscellaneous | 32,015 | 31,234 |
| Inventories | 15,225 | 15,624 |
| Mental Health | 3,533 | 3,741 |
| Habeas Corpus | 17 | 40 |
| Total Dockets | 94,955 | 96,048 |
| Licenses | | |
| Marriage | 68,431 | 71,166 |
| Firearms | 124,503 | 95,351 |

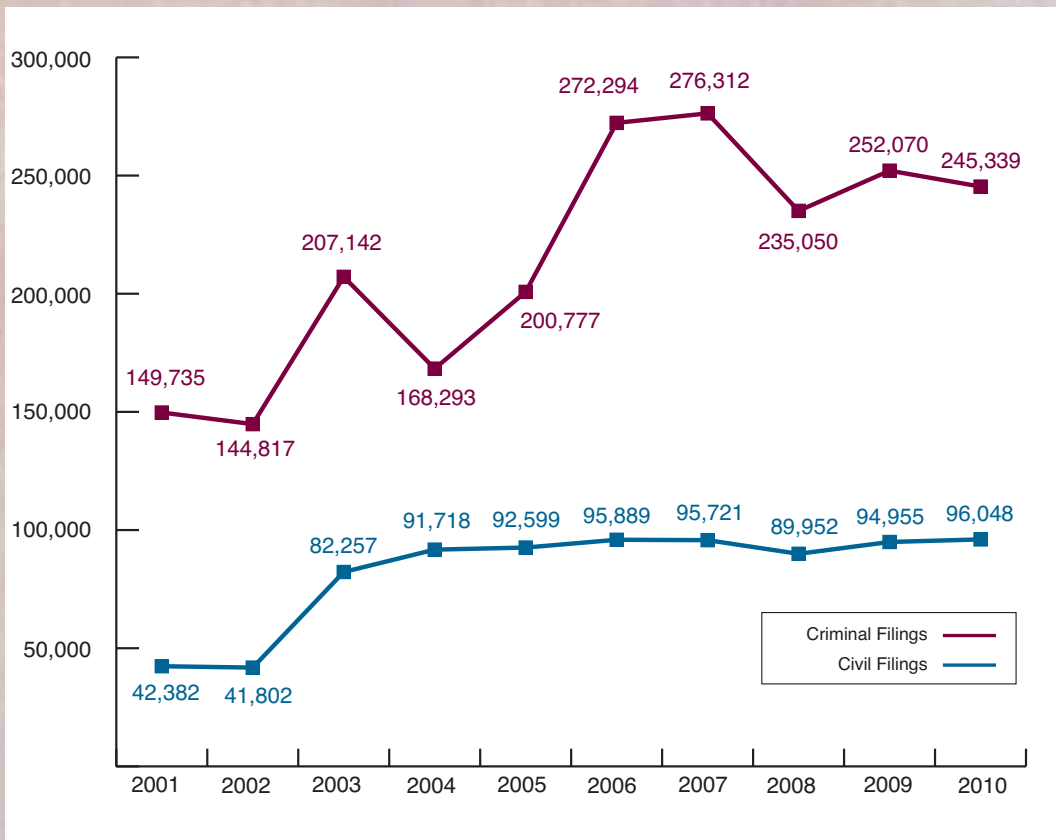
| Criminal | CY 2009 | CY 2010 |
|--------------------|---------|---------|
| Misdemeanor | | |
| Filed | 12,349 | 19,708 |
| Disposed by: | | |
| Guilty Plea | 5,710 | 5,013 |
| Cash Bond | 4,234 | 3,279 |
| Non Trial | 2,235 | 1,174 |
| Bench Trial | | |
| Acquitted | 505 | 512 |
| Convicted | 118 | 286 |
| Traffic | | |
| Filed | 239,387 | 225,631 |
| Disposed by: | | |
| Guilty Plea | 116,646 | 118,292 |
| Cash Bond | 67,182 | 164,843 |
| Non Trial | 29,701 | 18,541 |
| Bench Trial | | |
| Acquitted | 4,796 | 3,708 |
| Convicted | 1,786 | 4,482 |
| Total | | |
| Filed | 252,070 | 245,339 |
| Disposed | 240,378 | 320,130 |

Probate Courts

Probate Courts Total Filings 2001-2010



Probate Courts Criminal and Civil Filings 2001-2010



The Magistrate Courts

Magistrate court jurisdiction includes: civil claims of \$15,000 or less; certain minor criminal offenses; distress warrants and dispossessory writs; county ordinance violations; deposit account fraud (bad checks); preliminary hearings; and summonses, arrest, and search warrants. A chief magistrate, who may be assisted by one or more magistrates, presides over each of Georgia's 159 magistrate courts.

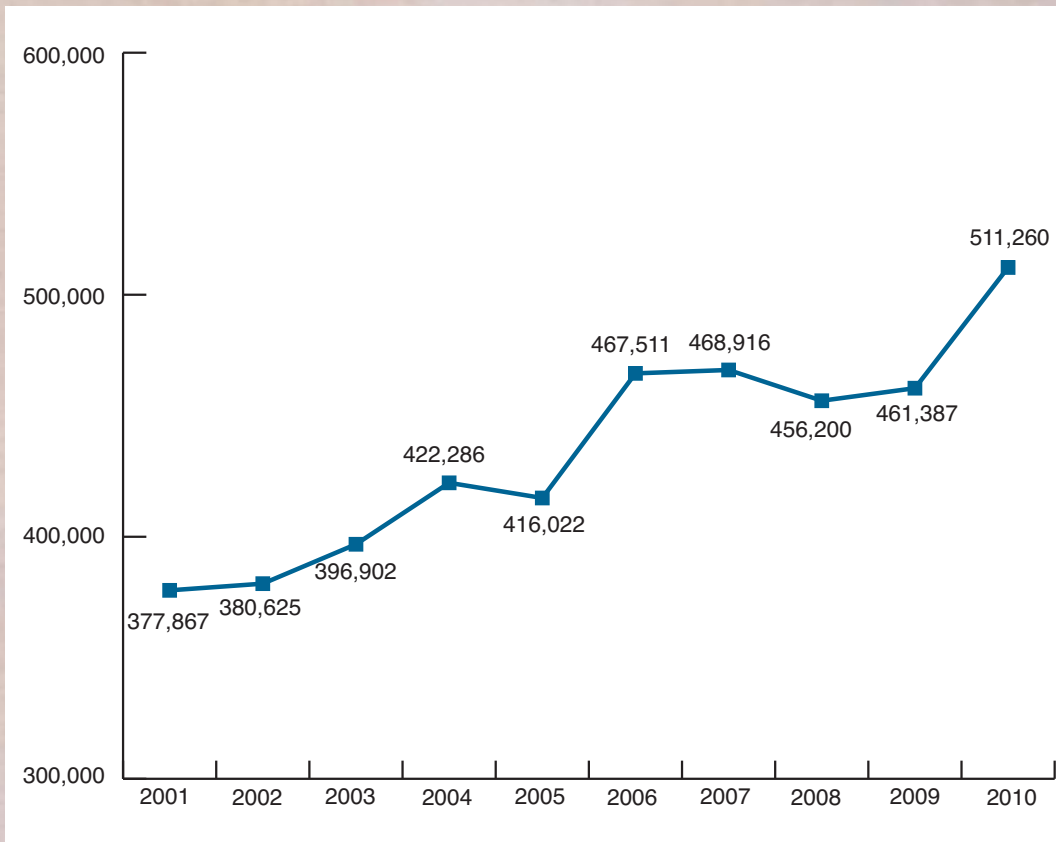
Most chief magistrates are elected in partisan, countywide elections to four-year terms. In some counties, the chief magistrate is appointed by the superior court judges. Terms for other magistrate judges run concurrently with that of the chief magistrate.

| Civil | CY 2009 | CY 2010 |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Claims | | |
| Filed | 186,406 | 191,095 |
| Disposed by: | | |
| Non-Trial | 105,241 | 145,035 |
| Trial | 38,107 | 38,761 |
| Dispossessories and Distress Warrants | | |
| Filed | 206,999 | 247,128 |
| Disposed by: | | |
| Non-Trial | 113,098 | 127,352 |
| Trial | 41,075 | 45,142 |
| Garnishments | | |
| Filed | 52,574 | 58,995 |
| Disposed by: | | |
| Non-Trial | 33,155 | 29,410 |
| Trial | 1,563 | 1,450 |
| Foreclosures and Attachments | | |
| Filed | 15,408 | 14,042 |
| Disposed by: | | |
| Non-Trial | 10,752 | 9,170 |
| Trial | 1,757 | 909 |
| Total Civil Filings | 461,387 | 511,260 |

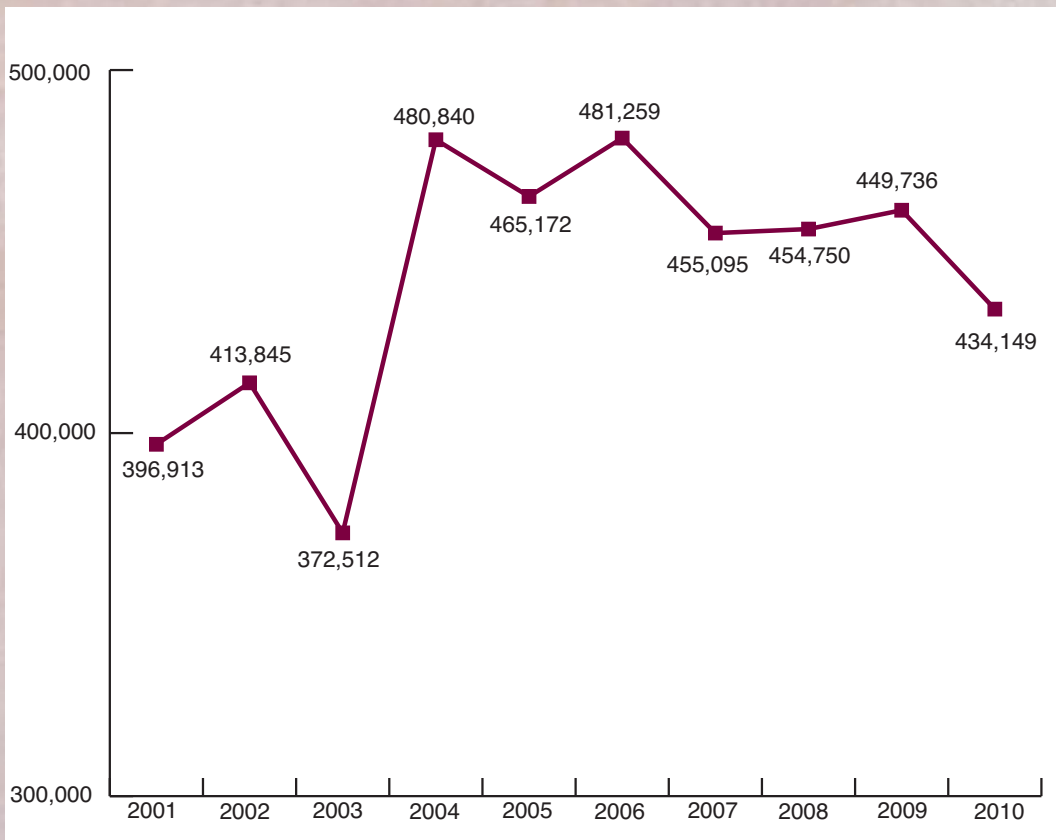
| Criminal | CY 2009 | CY 2010 |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|
| Warrants Issued | | |
| Felony Arrest | 171,803 | 151,776 |
| Misdemeanor Arrest | 176,377 | 184,370 |
| Good Behavior | 2,394 | 2,048 |
| Search Warrant | 11,632 | 12,401 |
| Hearings | | |
| Warrant Application | 32,516 | 37,360 |
| First Appearance | 192,628 | 194,921 |
| Commitment | 68,254 | 72,206 |
| Good Behavior | 2,492 | 1,487 |
| Ordinance Violations | | |
| Filed | 65,100 | 67,553 |
| Disposed by: | | |
| Non-Trial | 19,912 | 20,065 |
| Trial | 25,959 | 28,464 |
| Misdemeanor | | |
| Filed | 22,430 | 16,001 |
| Disposed by: | | |
| Non-Trial | 12,577 | 10,635 |
| Trial | 4,177 | 3,312 |
| Criminal & Civil | | |
| Warrants & Filings | 919,378 | 945,409 |
| Hearings & Dispositions | 690,553 | 765,679 |

Magistrate Courts

Magistrate Courts Civil Filings 2001-2010



Magistrate Courts Criminal Filings 2001-2010



The Municipal Courts

Georgia's municipal courts hear traffic and ordinance violation cases in 400 towns and cities—from tiny Abbeville to suburban Avondale Estates. Municipal Court judges hear municipal ordinance violations, issue criminal warrants, conduct preliminary hearings, and sometimes have concurrent jurisdiction over shoplifting cases and cases involving possession of one ounce or less of marijuana.

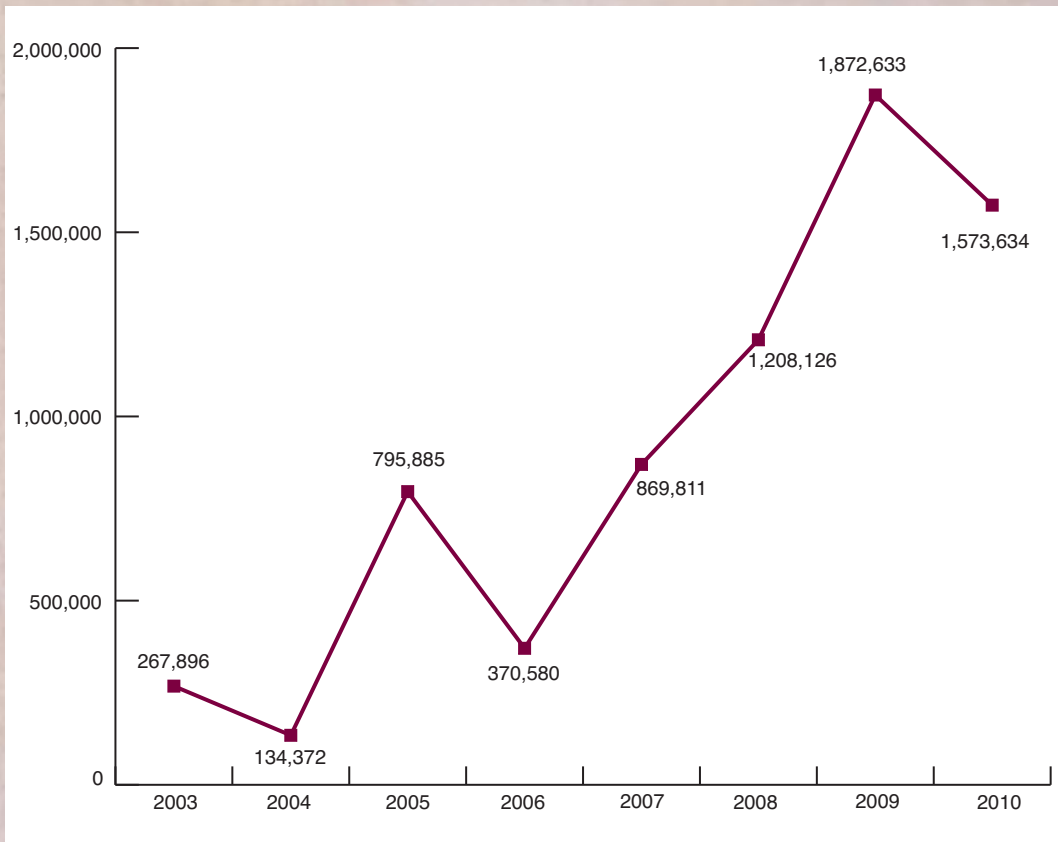
In 2010, 89% of municipal courts submitted caseload data to the Administrative Office of the Courts, up from 84% in 2009.

| | CY 2009 | CY 2010 |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Filings | | |
| Traffic | 1,382,451 | 1,327,459 |
| Ordinance | 280,055 | 100,870 |
| Serious Traffic | NR | 39,571 |
| Drugs | 13,414 | 12,241 |
| DUI | 27,867 | NR |
| Misdemeanors | NR | 77,375 |
| Felony Bindovers | NR | 16,118 |
| Other | 164,693 | NR |
| Total | 1,868,480 | 1,573,634 |
| Hearings | | |
| Traffic | 417,283 | 920,873 |
| Ordinance | 58,693 | 61,140 |
| Serious Traffic | NR | 24,638 |
| Drugs | 8,976 | 8,464 |
| DUI | 17,463 | NR |
| Misdemeanors | NR | 49,237 |
| Felony Bindovers | NR | 8,833 |
| Other | 39,197 | NR |
| Total | 541,612 | 1,073,185 |

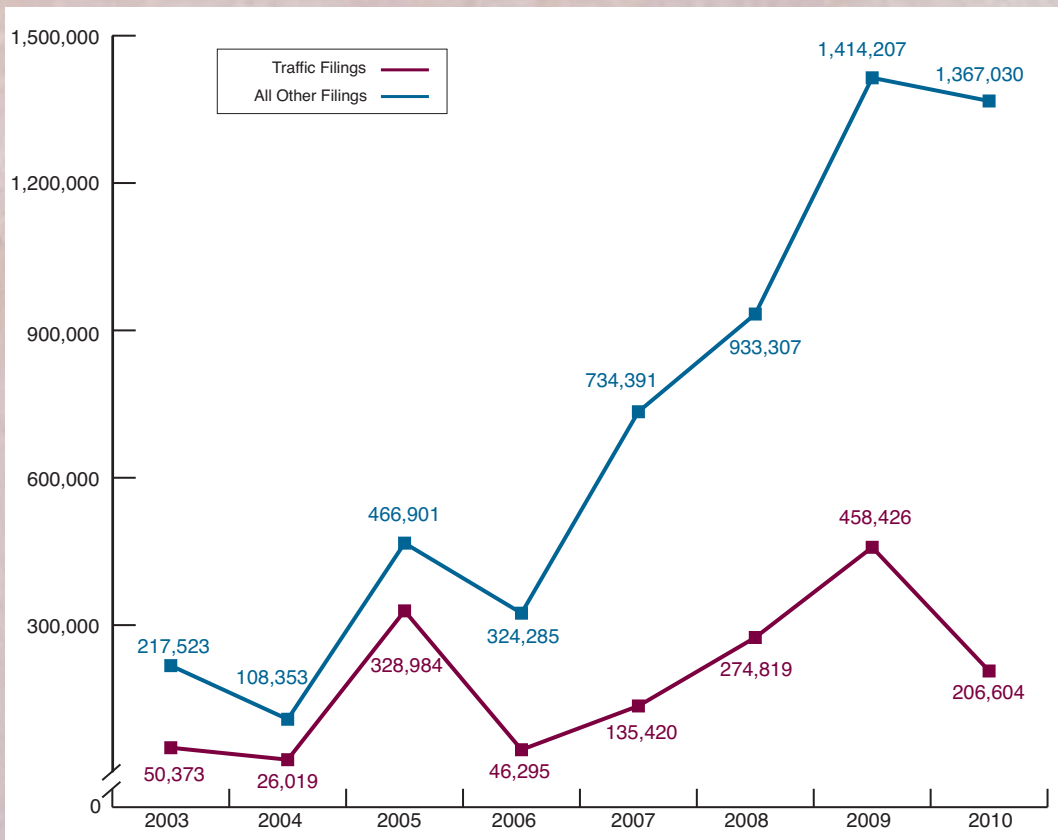
NR = Not Reported.

Municipal Courts

Municipal Courts Total Filings 2003-2010



Municipal Courts Filings by type 2003-2010



Judicial Demographics

In January 2012, a survey of racial and gender roles in Georgia's judiciary was undertaken. Below are the results as of January 1, 2012. Some data were unavailable to the AOC and have been reported here as "Unknown."

Supreme Court of Georgia 7 Justices.

| | | |
|----------|-----------------------|-----|
| 4 judges | White Male | 57% |
| 2 judges | African American Male | 29% |
| 1 judge | White Female | 14% |

Court of Appeals. 12 judges.

| | | |
|----------|-------------------------|-----|
| 8 judges | White Male | 67% |
| 2 judges | White Female | 17% |
| 1 judge | African American Male | 8% |
| 1 judge | African American Female | 8% |

Superior Court. 205 judgeships; three vacancies.

| | | |
|------------|-------------------------|-----|
| 147 judges | White Male | 74% |
| 34 judges | White Female | 16% |
| 12 judges | African American Male | 6% |
| 9 judges | African American Female | 4% |

State Court. 122 judgeships.

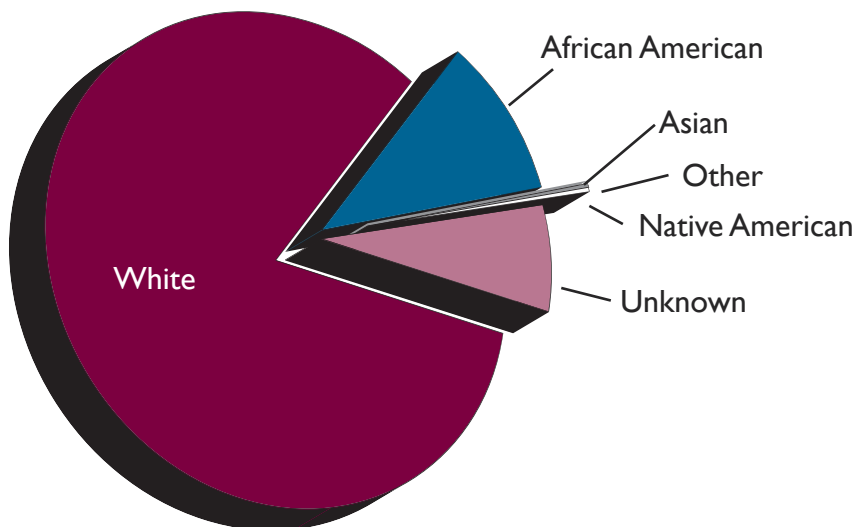
| | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|-----|
| 92 judges | White Male | 76% |
| 18 judges | White Female | 15% |
| 5 judges | African American Male | 4% |
| 5 judges | African American Female | 4% |
| 1 judge | Asian Male | .5% |
| 1 judge | Asian Female | .5% |

Juvenile Court. 121 judges, including full time and associate judges.

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|-----|
| 74 judges | White Male | 61% |
| 23 judges | White Female | 19% |
| 9 judges | African American Male | 7% |
| 6 judges | African American Female | 5% |
| 9 judges | Unknown* | 7% |

Judges by Race†

| | |
|------------------|------|
| White | 1218 |
| African American | 149 |
| Asian | 4 |
| Native American | 4 |
| Other | 2 |
| Unknown* | 99 |



*One or more characteristic was unavailable to the AOC to determine a demographic category.

†As of January 1, 2012.

Probate Court. 159 judges; 13 associate judges.

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|-----|
| 91 judges | White Female | 53% |
| 72 judges | White Male | 42% |
| 5 judges | African American Female | 3% |
| 3 judges | African American Male | 2% |
| 1 judge | Unknown* | .5% |

Magistrate Court. 159 chief magistrates;
331 magistrates.

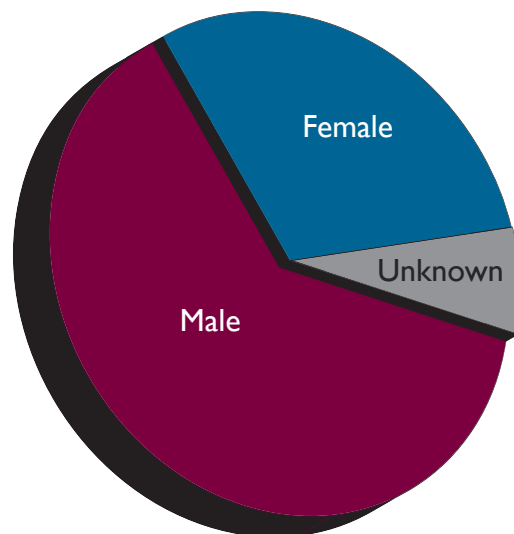
| | | |
|------------|-------------------------|-----|
| 214 judges | White Male | 45% |
| 159 judges | White Female | 31% |
| 33 judges | African American Female | 7% |
| 24 judges | African American Male | 5% |
| 1 judge | Asian Male | .2% |
| 2 judges | Native American Male | .4% |
| 1 judge | Native American Female | .2% |
| 1 judge | Other Male | .2% |
| 1 judge | Other Female | .2% |
| 54 judges | Unknown* | 11% |

Municipal Court. 350 judges.

| | | |
|------------|-------------------------|-----|
| 242 judges | White Male | 69% |
| 37 judges | White Female | 11% |
| 17 judges | African American Female | 5% |
| 17 judges | African American Male | 5% |
| 1 judge | Asian Male | .3% |
| 1 judge | Native American Male | .3% |
| 35 judges | Unknown* | 10% |

Judges by Gender†

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Male | 933 |
| Female | 444 |
| Unknown* | 99 |



*One or more characteristic was unavailable to the AOC to determine a demographic category.

†As of January 1, 2012.

Judicial Elections and Appointments

Court of Appeals

Appointments

| | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Judge Keith R. Blackwell | 11/01/10 |
| Judge Stephen L.A. Dillard | 11/01/10 |

Elected

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Judge Christopher J. McFadden | 01/01/11 |
|-------------------------------|----------|

Superior Court

Appointments

| | |
|--|----------|
| Judge Amanda Mercier, Appalachian Cir. | 07/15/10 |
| Judge William C. Rumer, Chattahoochee Cir. | 08/18/10 |
| Judge W. Fletcher Sams, Griffin Circuit | 10/04/10 |
| Judge Richard M. Crawford, Griffin Circuit | 10/04/10 |
| Judge Reuben Green, Cobb Circuit | 10/06/10 |
| Judge Patrick Haggard, Western Circuit | 06/15/11 |

Elected

| | |
|---|----------|
| Judge Courtney Johnson, Stone Mtn. Cir. | 01/01/11 |
| Judge Kelly Lee, Atlanta Circuit | 01/01/11 |
| Judge Howard Simms, Macon Circuit | 01/01/11 |

State Court

Appointments

| | |
|--|----------|
| Judge Allen Dee Morris, Cherokee County | 08/12/10 |
| Judge Aaron Mason, Clayton County | 08/12/10 |
| Judge John Flythe, Richmond County | 08/16/10 |
| Judge Jeffery L. Arnold, Long County | 08/16/10 |
| Judge James Edward Barker, Douglas Co. | 08/19/10 |
| Judge Steven Campbell, Habersham Co. | 09/02/10 |
| Judge Dax E. Lopez, DeKalb County | 09/23/10 |
| Judge Carla W. McMillian, Fayette County | 10/04/10 |
| Judge Eric A. Brewton, Cobb County | 10/06/10 |
| Judge Wesley B. Taylor, Fulton County | 12/21/10 |
| Judge Robert D. Leonard, Cobb County | 12/28/10 |
| Judge Robert Alexander, Jackson County | 03/30/11 |
| Judge Eleanor Ross, DeKalb County | 04/29/11 |
| Judge Stacey Hydrick, DeKalb County | 04/29/11 |
| Elected | |
| Judge Jason Ashford, Houston County | 01/01/11 |
| Judge Shawn Rowland, Jeff Davis County | 01/01/11 |
| Judge Jason Fincher, Cobb County | 01/01/11 |

